In the Claims

A marked up version of the claims as amended is set forth below: Please add new claims 22-55 as follows:

[21] 22. The method as recited in claim [20] 21, wherein at least one of the obtaining steps includes receiving data via a network communications link

[22] 23. The method as recited in claim [21] 22, wherein the communications link is an Internet web-site interface.

[23] 24. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein at least one of the obtaining steps includes receiving data via manual input.

[24] 25. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the normalization step includes obtaining control specimen data from the first and second groups of laboratory instruments and generating a normalization curve according the control specimen data.

[25] 26. The method as recited in claim [24] 25, wherein the normalization curve is generated by applying a linear regression to the first and second groups instrumentation control specimen outputs.

[26] 27. The method as recited in claim [24] 25, wherein the normalization curve is generated by applying a nonlinear regression to the first and second groups of instrumentation control specimen outputs.

[27] 28. The method as recited in claim [24] 25, wherein the normalization curve is generated by applying a linear regression, a non-linear regression, and a spline to the group of laboratory instrument control specimen data and measuring the curve error for each curve.

[28] 29. The method as recited in claim [27] 28 further comprising returning the curve with the minimum cumulative curve error.

[29] 30. The method as recited in claim [27] 28 further comprising returning the curve with the minimum average curve error.

[30] 31. The method as recited in claim [24] 25, wherein the normalization step includes applying a spline to the first and second groups of instrumentation control specimen outputs.

[31] 32. The method as recited in claim [24] 25, wherein the normalization step includes mapping the testing group output of the first group of laboratory instruments according to the normalization curve.

[32] 33. The method as recited in claim [24] 25, wherein the normalization step includes mapping the testing group of the second group of laboratory instruments according to the normalization curve.

[33] <u>34</u>. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the normalization step includes normalizing the first group testing specimen output with the second group testing specimen output.

[34] <u>35</u>. The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the normalization step includes normalizing the first and second group testing specimen outputs to a control group indicative of a peer group of laboratory instrument outputs.

[35] <u>36</u>. The method as recited in claim 21 further comprising outputting at least one of the normalized first and second group outputs.

[36] <u>37</u>. The method as recited in claim [35] <u>36</u>, wherein the outputting step includes displaying the normalized outputs on a network.

[37] <u>38</u>. The method as recited in claim [35] <u>36</u>, wherein the outputting step includes sending the normalized outputs to at least one of the first and second laboratory instrument groups.

[38] <u>39</u>. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 21.

[39] <u>40</u>. A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, the computer system being operable to execute the steps recited in claim 21.

1   [40] 41. A system for normalizing groups of laboratory instruments, the system

comprising:

          one or more groups of laboratory instruments; and

          a normalization server in communication with the groups of laboratory

5   instruments;

          wherein the groups of laboratory instruments send data indicative of outputs

to the normalization system and wherein the normalization system outputs

normalized outputs to the groups of laboratory instruments.

          [41] 42. The system as recited in claim [40] 41, wherein the normalization server and

the one or more groups of laboratory instruments communicate via a network communications link.

          [42] 43. The system as recited in claim [41] 42, wherein the communications link

is an Internet web-site interface.

          [43] 44. The system as recited in claim [40] 41, wherein one or more groups of

laboratory instruments include a laboratory information system coupled to individual laboratory

instruments and in communication with the normalization server.

1   [44] 45. A method for standardizing instrument results from a plurality of laboratory

instruments, the method comprising:

          obtaining testing specimen data from a first of a group of laboratory

instruments;

1

normalizing the first laboratory instrument testing specimen data according

to a first normalization curve; and

adjusting the first laboratory instrument data according to the first

normalization curve.

1

[45] 46. The method as recited in claim [44] 45, further comprising:

obtaining testing specimen data from a second of a group of laboratory

instruments;

normalizing the second laboratory instrument testing specimen data according

5   to a second normalization curve; and

adjusting the second laboratory instrument data according to the second

normalization curve.

[46] 47. The method as recited in claim [45] 46, wherein the normalization steps

include obtaining control specimen data from the first and second laboratory instruments and

generating the first and second normalization curves according to the control specimen data.

[47] 48. The method as recited in claim [46] 47, wherein the first and second

normalization curves are generated by applying a nonlinear regression to the control specimen data.

[48] 49. The method as recited in claim [46] 47, wherein the first and second

normalization curves are generated by applying a spline to the control specimen data.

[49] 50. The method as recited in claim [46] 47, wherein the first and second normalization curves are generated by applying a linear regression, a non-linear regression, and a spline to the first and second control specimen data and measuring the curve error for each curve.

[50] 51. The method as recited in claim [49] 50 further comprising returning the curve with the minimum cumulative curve error.

[51] 52. The method as recited in claim [49] 50 further comprising returning the curve with the minimum average curve error.

[52] 53. The method as recited in claim [46] 47, wherein the first normalization step includes mapping the testing sample data according the first normalization curve and the second normalization step includes mapping the testing sample data according to the second normalization curve.

[53] 54. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim [44] 45.
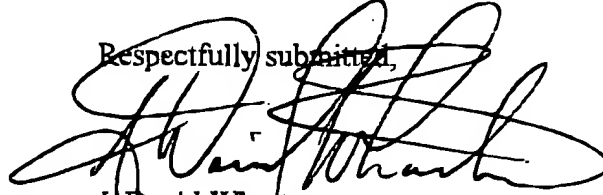
[54] 55. A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, the computer system being operable to execute the steps recited in claim [44] 45.

<u>Remarks</u>

The subject amendment is being submitted to correct a typographical error in the original claims which included two different claims, both numbered 21. Thus, the amendment is

1026822.1   - 16 -

restricted to the original claim 21, second occurrence, and those claims dependent from it. This

amendment was stated orally to the examiner during a recent telephone conference and the

Honorable Examiner requested that confirmation be made in written form.

Respectfully submitted,

J. David Wharton
Reg. No. 25,717

JDW/mg

February 7, 2002

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
One Kansas City Place
1200 Main Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64105-2118
816/474-6550